

# PERFECT!

## James Matthews' 1966 GT Coupe

by Tracy Harrell  
 photographs by James Matthews

If you ever happen to be passing through Rose Bud, Arkansas be sure to stop by Matthews Auto Salvage at the intersection of Highway 5 and Highway 164. Owner James Matthews has been in the "mostly Mustang" salvage business "since the time you could buy a good '65 GT for \$100". James remembers the day when he used to crush old Mustangs (about 50 or so) and wishes he could have some of those fastback decklids back. James' salvage business has become so well known in Arkansas that he doesn't have to go looking for



Mustangs anymore — people bring them to him. He usually has 50 to 60 Mustang parts cars on hand, and Mustangs account for about 75 percent of his business.

When James decided to restore a Mustang himself, he had one goal in mind — PERFECTION! He wanted to show and retire his Mustang in One MCA season.

James found his 1966 GT coupe in a backyard in Quitman, Arkansas. He asked about the car several times over a two year period. The price kept going



James Matthews' 1966 GT Coupe.

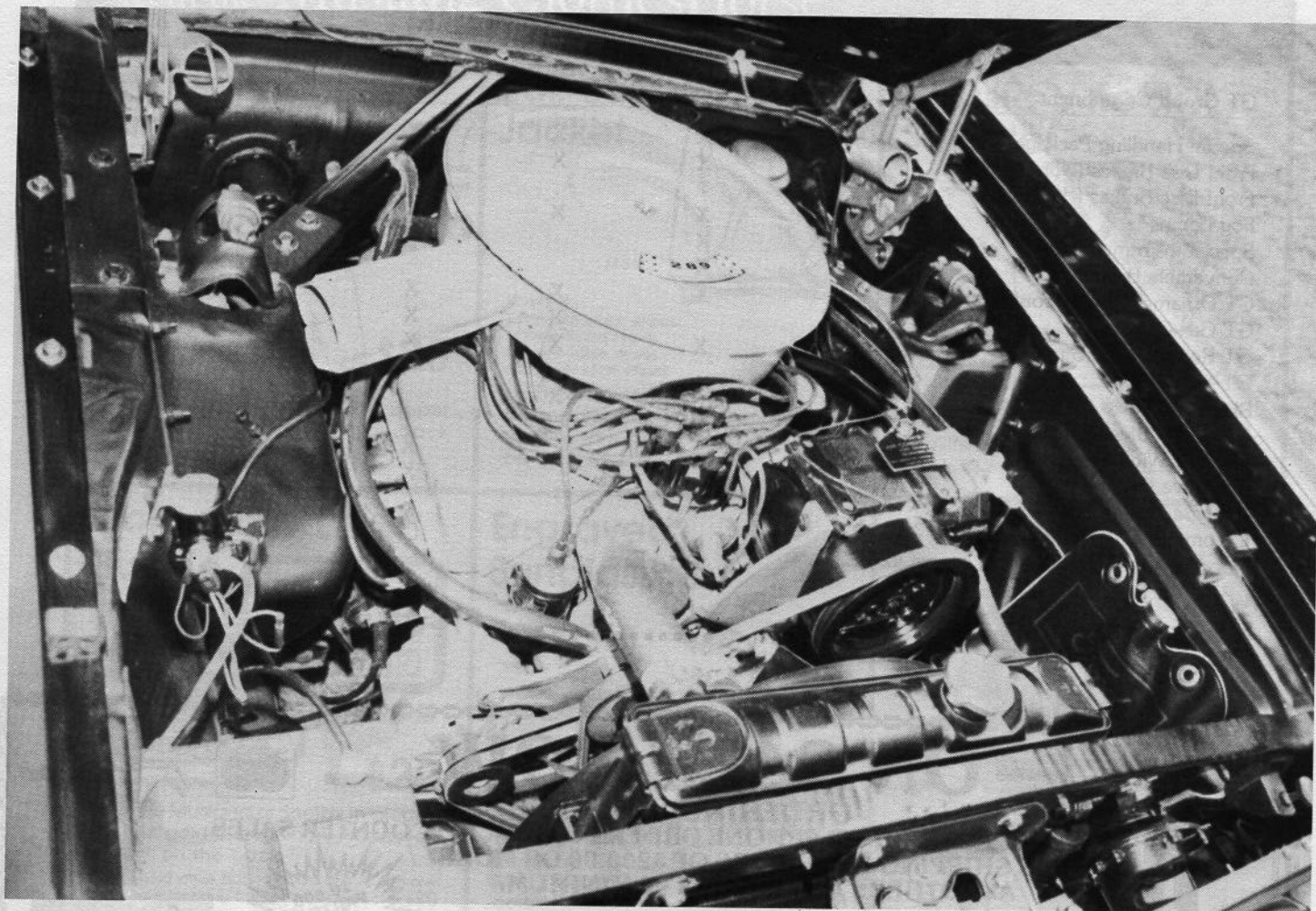
up each time he asked the owner about it, so he bought it in 1982 to keep the price from getting any higher.

He worked on the car for two and a half years, and finished his complete restoration just in time for the first show of the 1985 season — Pensacola. The coupe won Best of Show at Pensacola, then first in class at Chattanooga, becoming a Senior Division car in only two shows — James had achieved half of his goal.



Standard interior with console.





289-4V with airconditioning.



The competition in the MCA's Senior Division was tougher, but James' GT still placed first in class and won Best of Show at the Southern National in Biloxi. James only needed a first place win at the MCA Grand National in Atlanta to realize his goal, but unfortunately was unable to attend. James can still retire his '66 coupe in only four MCA Nationals if he wins a first place trophy in 1986 — quite an accomplishment!

James' black 1966 GT coupe features standard red interior, and is fully optioned with air, Rally pac, styled steel wheels, dual red line tires, and vinyl top. **MT**

# MUSTANG GT EQUIPMENT

GT Group Component	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Special Handling Package	X	X	X	X	X
Front Disc Brakes (Non-power)	X	X			
Front Disc Brakes (Power)			X		
Fog Lamps	X	X	X	X	
Special Instrumentation	X				
Convertible Brace	X				
GT Ornamentation (Front fender)	X	X	X	X	X
GT Gas Cap		X	X		X
GT Rocker Panel Stripe	X	X	X		
GT "C" Stripe				X	
Black Out Grille		X			X
GT Styled Steel Wheels				X	
F70x14 Wide Oval Tires			X	X	
Reflective Group			X		X
Pin-type Hood Latches				X	
Chrome Engine Components (390 and 427)					X
Hood Scoop (Non-functional except 428-CJ)					

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